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TIC 4905-A

Country: Northern Rhodesia/Union of South Africa

Subject: Aviation Developments: Coastal Defence Aircraft/Effect of Viking Crash on Operations of Central African Airways.

Place Acquired:

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Date Acquired:

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Date of Info: late April 53

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Source:

South African Coastal Defence Aircraft

1. The South African Government is considering buying the new British Avro Shackleton for coastal defence aircraft. Three Avro Shackletons, operated by R.A.F. crews, arrived in South Africa towards the end of April 1953. The planes are still on the secret list, and no details of performance and equipment are available. The outstanding feature is known to be their long range. A R.A.F. officer described the flight between Ceylon and Mauritius -- about 2,450 miles-- as an "average journey". The planes cost about \$700,000 each.

Central African Airways

2. Central African Airways, a Rhodesian company, has suffered a sharp setback from the crash of one of its Vicker's Vikings in Tanganyika. The Rhodesian Director of Civil Aviation has grounded all Vikings pending an investigation into possible metal fatigue in various parts of the aircraft. The number of flying hours permissible for Vikings on the Central African Airways, before reinforcement or replacement of wing components, previously was 10,000. The British Ministry of Aviation has reduced this to 6,000 hours. It is understood that the Vikings will be grounded some length of time, pending the outcome of the inquiry into the Tanganyika crash and the installation of any necessary replacements.
3. Central African Airways have had to reduce their services sharply, though two Vikings are unaffected. A Skymaster has been chartered from South African Airways. Two Douglas DC-3's have been chartered from East African Airways.
4. Central African Airways has suspended negotiations with Vickers Armstrong for the purchase of another Viking.
5. BOAC has informed Central African Airways that, for purposes of overseas travel, it might be possible to route BOAC Comets through Salisbury, if airport and refuelling facilities are available.

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